

Los Angeles Valley College

## Valley Star

Van Nuys, California

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## Student protest staged at Pierce

By DEREK ANEY  
Staff Writer

Hundreds of students gathered at Los Angeles Pierce College yesterday in a combination walkout and demonstration to protest proposed budget cuts and the decision to eliminate summer school.

Protestors gathered in front of the Pierce library where flyers were distributed and speakers presented information on the proposed 11.6 percent decrease in Pierce College funding, as well as statewide budget problems.

"We are facing a three million dollar cut in our budget. They have cancelled summer school and mail registration, and we need to do something about it," said Pierce student organizer Michael DeBrusk.

Other speakers including Los Angeles Valley College Associated Student Union President Jesse Hernandez emphasized the need to write legislators.

"The Legislature thinks that you don't care and that you don't vote. We have to call and write our representatives to let them know that education is the only solution to the economic problems in California," Hernandez said.

The protest moved to Victory Boulevard and Mason Avenue where throngs of students chanting, "Pete's gotta go," filled the crosswalks at the intersection, entirely blocking the flow of traffic.

The Los Angeles Police Department as well as Pierce Campus Police were on the scene as the demonstration proceeded down Victory Boulevard to Winnetka Avenue where the sign warring protestors again filled the intersection.

Led by students who organized the event, the mass of activists marched back on to campus, through the Administration Building, and into the Campus Center where the District Board of Trustees was scheduled to meet in private session at noon.

Chants of "Students united, will never be defeated," filled the room as protestors spoke out about budget issues and the need to stay united.

Hernandez stepped up and announced plans for an April 15th rally at Pete Wilson's office and advised students to contact their student unions for more information. He also addressed the cancellation of summer school at Pierce.

"If you let them take away your summer school, it will be a long time before you get it back," Hernandez said.

Pierce College President Lowell Erickson, who had marched with students earlier, announced that summer school would be reinstated. The crowd roared its approval.

Discussions continued immediately as board members entered the room and made their views known. Board members spoke in support of students and assured the crowd that they would be working to stop the fee hikes.

The meeting ended shortly before 1 p.m., as the crowd dispersed so that the board could go into its scheduled closed session.

At an informal gathering after the protest, ASU Treasurer Dave Patton said that he had learned something from the demonstration at Pierce.

"We need to rely on the student body more than the student government," Patton said. "I fully support a walkout at Valley. Students there need to have a voice," he said.



ANTHONY WAKELIN / Valley Star

Los Angeles Valley and Pierce College students walked out of classes yesterday to protest Governor Pete Wilson's budget cuts. The students marched down Victory Boulevard blocking traffic and the LAPD was called

to help contain the protestors. After the march, the students rallied on the Pierce College campus and before the Los Angeles Community College Board winning back summer school classes for Pierce.

## ASU, students protest fees in state Capitol

By AMANDA L. DUCHOW  
Staff Writer

"What do we want?"  
"Education!"  
"When do we want it?"  
"NOW!!"

Students from Los Angeles Valley College joined other community college students from all over Southern California to protest against proposed fee hikes for community colleges starting next semester.

LAVC students joined forces with students from as far south as San Diego to show their opposition to the third fee increase since 1990.

The LAVC protesters kicked off their 24 hour journey to the state Capitol with a press conference last Tuesday where they boarded busses and vans for the seven hour journey to Sacramento.

The determined students spent the night on a gymnasium floor at Cordova High School, and endured a four hour long rally on the steps of

the Capitol in the rain.

"My hat is off to the students and organizers of the rally. The students were great, and they should be proud of their accomplishment," said Doug Morrow, president of California Student's Association of Community Colleges.

Students from many different schools protested, some holding signs like, "Will work for units", and "Let's cut education, NOT!!" Other students were organized into delegations to go into the Capitol and attempt to talk with legislators about their plight as community college students with high fees.

LAVC's Commissioner of Public Relations, Don Graham, was one of the organizers of the delegations. "There were 50 to 70 student delegates in the Capitol at any given time during the rally. They reported many varied and different positions of their prospective legislators," he said.

Graham went on to say, "We heard all the way across the board, from Hershal Rosenthal who sup-

ports us and the half cent tax incentive, to Republicans who actually said they did not want to deal with us."

Although the reactions on behalf of the state's legislators were not what the organizers had hoped for, ASU President Jesse Hernandez was pleased over all with the student turnout. "Wednesday's event was a success, but from our point of view on the legislators end, it was not a success. I think the legislators were very unsympathetic, and very condescending. Yet they tried to pretend that they were sympathetic," said Hernandez.

The proposed fee hike would bring fees to \$30 per unit for students without bachelors degrees and \$90 per unit for those with degrees.

Until the year 1984, the California Community Colleges remained with out a state wide charge. In that year the California legislators imposed a five dollar a unit (or \$100 a year) fee.

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D'ANDRE FORD / Valley Star

Jane George, LAVC student, sings "Ode to Becky Bell", an original pro-choice song.

## Empowerment rally held for March Women's History Month

By RONIT LE MON  
News Editor

The "Women's Struggle for Empowerment" rally was held yesterday in Monarch Square to celebrate March as National Women's History Month.

Sponsored by the Commissioner of Women's Concerns, Women's Action Resource, New Utopians, Latin Americans Student Association (LASA) and the Black Student Union, the schedule of events included speakers from various women's groups and performances by women from different cultures.

The rows of chairs were half-filled as the events began but, as the Amethysts, an all-female band, performed attendance picked up.

The Amethysts, composed of former LAVC students, sang a song in

Spanish that stressed the strength of women and followed with another number in which pan pipes were played. Their music and voices gathered the crowds attention and drew more people into the rally.

Melvy Murgia, commissioner of Women's Concerns, read the congressional resolution that designated March as Women's History Month. The resolution made clear that women have contributed a lot to the formation of the United States and that their achievements have been overlooked. Women's History Month was designated to recognize those achievements.

Cynthia Murray, a child development major in her second year, agreed. "It's time to start listening to us. We're not going to be quiet anymore."

"I want to take control of my own life," said Stephanie Duran, se-

cond year communications major, "That's why I'm here."

Along with recognizing those achievements, the speakers at the rally came to speak of the struggles that still lie ahead. Many offered solutions. All of them offered strength.

"When I talk about empowerment," said Pamela Burton, operations director at KPFF radio station, "It's where we come from. It's our mothers, our grandmothers, our great grandmothers. We can learn from them. The work of women has been done and it's not always known because it's not commercial."

Burton continued, "We have a women's coalition so that women without skills can come in and learn about radio. If we put you behind

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## Information lectures scheduled

By EVA R. YELLOZ  
Staff Writer

Beginning March 30, the Los Angeles Valley College Academic Senate joins with the Amnesty Education and Staff Development Programs to present a series of free community information lectures to be held in Monarch Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Each lecture will be followed by a question and answer session.

The first of the series of lectures will cover "Workers' Rights: Job Discrimination." The guest speaker will be Moises Escalante, outreach coordinator from the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA).

Escalante is a leading spokesperson on immigration issues affecting Southern California. His organization's mission is to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees through legislation, public policy and comprehensive information and a service referral system.

The second speaker on the agenda for March 30 will be Lauren Mayfield, loss control manager from the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

Mayfield's talk will be about how Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) works. She will discuss what is required of employers in a safe workplace, how to report unsafe conditions in the

workplace, the Workers' Compensation claims process and some common misconceptions.

The State Compensation Insurance Fund is the leading public, non-profit provider of compulsory workers' compensation insurance to employers in California since 1914.

Future lectures will be held weekly for the duration of the semester and will include subjects such as: Immigrants' Rights and Responsibilities, Health Care Resources and Fair Housing and Home Seeking/Tenant's Rights.

This is the first series of community information lectures of this type. For additional information contact: Janice Berger at AMNESTY, extension 320.



## EDITORIALS

## Tightening the vise on college education

Politicians are about to turn the crank on the vise they have put on California's higher education once again. Squeezed out will be lower to middle income students who will not be able to afford the newly proposed tuition increases by the Cal State University Board of Trustees and the University of California Board of Regents.

Last week, the Cal State Board voted to raise undergraduate fees \$480 to \$1,788 next year and by 1995-1996 will bring tuition to \$2,540 annually. Meanwhile, the UC Board agreed to raise fees by \$995 next year to \$4,039 a year. All that is needed to enact the fees is the approval of Governor Pete Wilson and the legislature.

This governor and legislature have stamped into law more derivative educational policies than used car salesmen have sold lemons. The proposed tuition hikes will likely be approved by the legislature and readily signed by Wilson.

While the Cal State and UC systems have introduced their tuition increases, the community colleges are still awaiting their fate.

Speculation is that fees will be raised to \$30 a unit, but Los Angeles Valley College Dean of Academic Affairs, John Clerx said the tuition hike will likely be raised to \$20 a unit next semester.

Student drop out from two year-colleges will be recovered by the fallout from CSU and UC students who will come to junior colleges to avoid the CSU and UC costs, Clerx said.

As the politicians continue to scale down education, lower to middle class citizens will find it increasingly difficult to receive a college degree.

Additional financial aid has been promised, but we only need to look out on the streets of Los Angeles to see how financial aid has helped high school graduates attend college.

We, at the Valley Star, are opposed to the additional unilateral tuition hikes that will probably be passed by our elected officials. Something has to be done to stop the class cutting and fee hikes that have burdened us for so long.

Candidates that are sympathetic to education must be installed, but elections are too far away to bring about the changes we need. Action must be taken now.

Defiance against the governor, the legislature and the university system is the only answer.

Start talking with your classmates about the disastrous educational conditions. Read more about what is happening to us and how it will effect you. Your first step should be to write your assemblyman and governor to tell them that you are not going to allow them to bleed us to death.

Your next step should be to organize and fight against these conditions and against those who have imposed them on you.

Do not pretend this situation does not apply to you. In a year from now, you could be wishing you had done something to prevent the increases from occurring while you are flipping burgers at the nearest fast food joint instead of being in school.

Do not rely on teachers or administrators to guide you in this matter. They will be too worried about pay cuts and the security of their jobs. We have to be concerned about ourselves.

The rallies on Feb. 24 at LAVC and on March 16 in Sacramento must only be the beginning, not the end, if we are going to stop these fees from increasing. If you, as a student at LAVC, need to question why you need to begin fighting to save your educational future, then you might as well question why you need to breathe.

## Has their anger been heard?

By AMANDA L. DUCHOW  
Staff Writer

Where did the peaceful rally last week in Sacramento get us? I am aware that the students did something that had never been done before, and for that they all should be commended. It was not an easy task, I can assure you of that.

Students took time out of not only their classes, but their lives as well to cram into buses and vans to face a seven hour drive to Sacramento.

They slept on a hardwood floor and endured a rally that took place in the rain. But as I watched all these students standing on the steps of the Capitol Building fighting for their right to an education, I wondered if

the people inside were really listening.

I know that I, along with everyone else involved, would like to believe that there were a lot of people listening, but were there?

Students who went into the Capitol and lobbied legislators got a few positive reactions, but mostly what I believe are empty promises from legislators' aids.

In a perfect society, people would have been listening and would have been interested to hear what we had to say. This is obviously not a perfect society and I don't think all of the efforts of students were greeted with the attention they deserved.

It made me wonder what it is that we, as students have to do to make these people understand that no

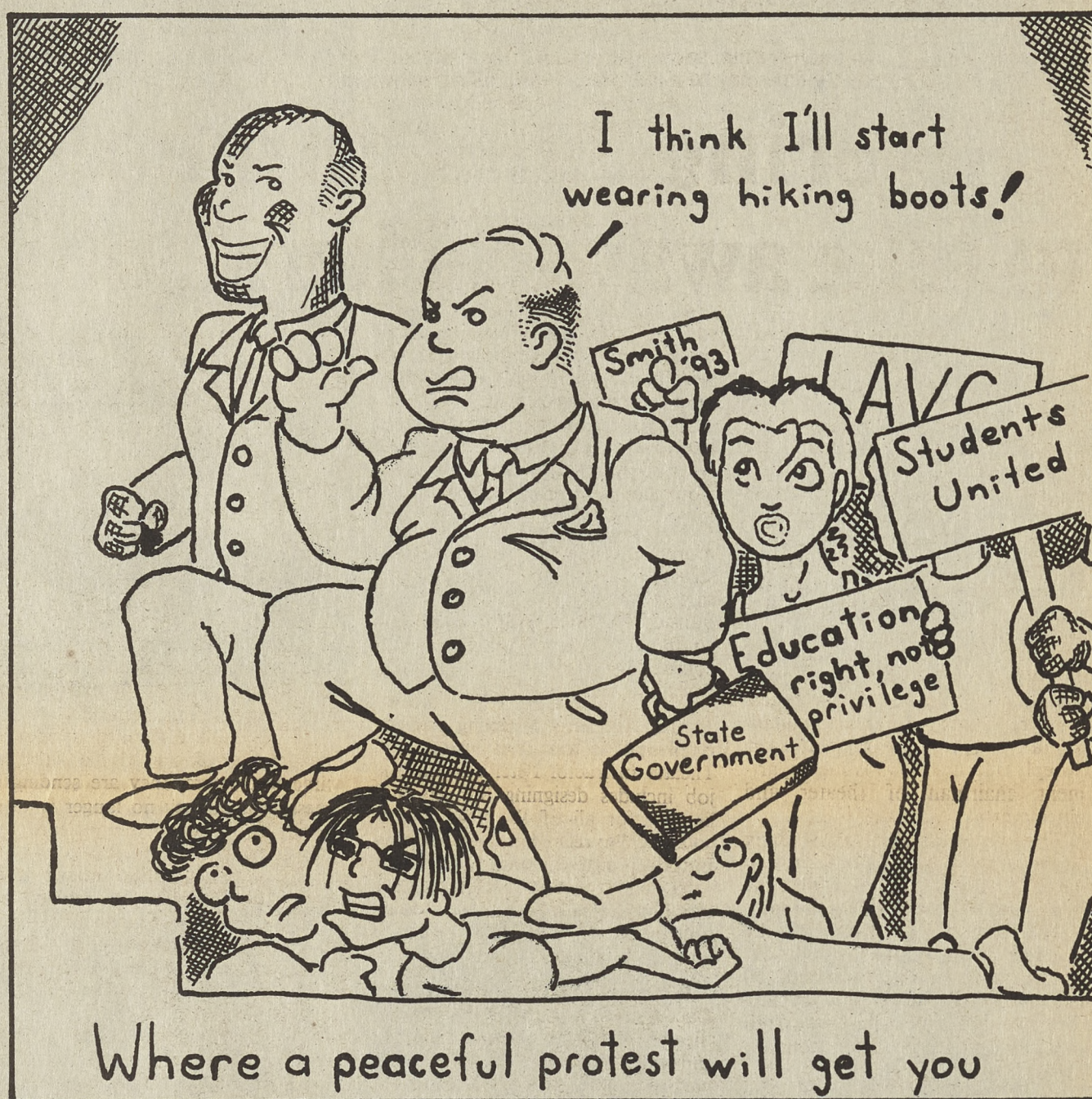
longer are students going to take fee increases laying down.

Do we have to walk out of classes? Do we have to have rallies every week until we get our point across?

I am puzzled by how we can convey our message; the romantic vision of people burning their bodies in protest comes to mind. I can see a row of students being carted to jail. But that is exactly it. Education should be a right not a privilege and we should not have to suffer to receive our rights.

I am aware of exactly how far students will go to fight for rights.

Right or wrong, if the right people don't start listening, I can see destructive acts happenings. It's not a vision I want to see, but one that is becoming much more clear.



Where a peaceful protest will get you

## Retain higher taxes to sustain higher education

In 1989, the earth shook resulting in a one-half cent California sales tax for general relief to the victims in the San Francisco bay area.

When it was about to expire in 1991, fires broke-out in Oakland and the tax was renewed to provide for relief to those victims.

Now in 1993, the victims in need of relief are those trying to receive an education. With the state economy in such disarray, and Governor Wilson suggesting further cuts to college level education with increases mounting to another 200 per cent at the community college level, creative alternatives need to be discussed.

One such alternative is the renewal of the one-half cent sales tax relief fund to be earmarked for education.

"This could restore funding without having to raise fees this year," said Jesse Hernandez, Los Angeles Valley College Associated Student Union president.

In one year, this tax would generate \$1.5 billion for education statewide from

kindergarten through the college level.

Fausto Capobianco, director of public relations for the Los Angeles Community College District said, the district supports the retention of the one-half cent sales tax. It generates important revenue for the state, part of which will go to the community colleges, he said.

The Editorial Board of the Valley Star urges students, parents, faculty, employees, friends and neighbors to sign the designated postcards endorsing the implementation of the one-half cent sales tax.

More than 3,500 signed postcards were delivered in person to Sacramento last week by LAVC students and 15,000 for the Southern California region. The postcards are available through the ASU office and will be sent to Governor Wilson, Speaker of the Assembly Willie Brown, state senators and assemblymen.

We must shake the earth a bit and have our voices heard to get some relief to the rising costs of education.

## Cults not just for whackos

By EVA R. YELLOZ  
Staff Writer

When you can't ask questions or are made to feel inferior, stupid and insignificant if you ask them, something is wrong and scary at the same time.

I was raised in a household where everyone questioned everything. Today, I'm rearing a family in the same fashion. Maybe that's why I never understood how people joined cults.

At a recent Hillel/Psychology Department sponsored lecture held on campus, I heard the firsthand experiences of a former cult member, Corey Slavin. From the moment she began to tell the audience about her strong Jewish identity and her family's lifetime affiliation with a local reformed temple, I was sucked into her story. I listened to the taped lecture over and over, haunted by her recollections. How could this happen to an intelligent, educated and articulate young woman?

From the research materials I read and in wake of the apocalyptic scene

in Waco, Texas, I began to search myself, my family and friends, for the reasons why a person would become pulled into a destructive cult lifestyle.

I took a walk back to the mid '60s, when I was a teenager growing

up in New York. There were cults everywhere. "Hare Krishna" was recited on many busy intersections of the city. I used to rush by them

on my way to school or work. Never tried to understand them and only knew they were strange and that they scared me. But Corey Slavin didn't seem like the people I remember from the '60s. She didn't fit the profile in my mind. Yet she succumbed. Why?

Slavin said she met the woman who recruited her at work. She said she was "in transition and vulnerable." I thought of all the people I know who are in constant transition; changing jobs, moving, getting divorced and going back to school, and wondered if they have been approached and just said "No!"

Among my acquaintances and associates there are a lot of cynics and skeptics. We question and doubt and don't accept the spoken or written word without a discussion or argument. We are free thinkers and don't like to be controlled.

That is how it should be. What we do—our tastes, likes and dislikes, the clothes we wear, the statements we make should be our own. We should learn to distinguish what enhances our life, and what takes away from it.

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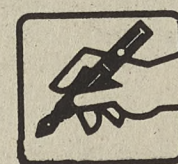
## ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or

make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations.

Letters should be signed and include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the Valley Star office, Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.







Due to tightening budget constraints, some instructors' jobs in Theatre and Cinema may be eliminated.

One instructor whose future is not certain is Duane Gardella, shown here helping Edita Semiginovska.

## Lingering cuts threaten to take away teachers' jobs

By DEREK ANEY  
Staff Writer

Impending budget cuts are threatening to do away with two of the six remaining full-time teachers in the Film and Theater departments at Los Angeles Valley College.

The positions are held by Duane Gardella, the technical director for theater, and Mark Morris who is a cinema instructor.

"We are in a no win situation. If we lose the full-time instructors, particularly the one in technical theater, we will not be able to maintain a hands on program," said Dr. Joseph Daccorso who is the department chairman of theater and cinema arts.

The loss of the hands on training would result in a significant drop in enrollment, which could subject the department to further cuts, he said.

The best case scenario for the Theater department would cut public performances by about 50 percent, while the Cinema department would operate at about 1/6th of its current production courses, Daccorso said.

The positions in question were filled in the past year after two pro-

fessors retired. Gardella and Morris were hired as temporary substitutes on a semester basis.

The lost full-time positions would likely be replaced by part-time hourly instructors. "Part-time staff won't cut it," Daccorso said.

A theater production takes much more time than even a full-time instructor is scheduled to work, he said. Many additional hours are required for preparing facilities, equipment and production, and counseling students one on one, Daccorso said.

"The Technical Directing position is pivotal to our existence," said Theater Instructor Peter Parkin. The job includes designing the sets and lighting for all of the productions, and teaching related classes including Introduction to Theater.

"Duane is the best person we have ever had in that position. He is doing brilliant work, and it would be a crime to lose him," Parkin said.

"There is no fat in our program," Daccorso said. Through the '80s, the theater department went from 12 full-time instructors in addition to part-time help, down to the current number of six full-timers and some lab assistants.

We are already down to the bare bones minimum for production work," Daccorso said. Any more cuts will result in not only production limitations, but an acceleration in the possibility of the process of combining majors, he said.

"We might end up having to join Cinema, Broadcasting and Journalism into Media Arts, and Theater, Music and Drama into Performing Arts," Daccorso said.

All of the departments would have to make sacrifices in this case, but for the good of the existence of the arts programs, he said.

If the College Council decides to replace Gardella and Morris with part-time instructors, they are sending a message that they no longer want a hands on laboratory experience for the students, Daccorso said.

To complicate the situation, in order for Gardella to be rehired for Fall of '93, it must be on a full-time basis, due to contract stipulations. "If we lose Gardella, we are going to have to reinvent the wheel," Daccorso said.

On average, it takes a few semesters for a new instructor to get used to the operation and limitations of the equipment and facilities at LAVC, he said.

## RALLY

Continued from Page 1

Originally, the fee was enacted as a temporary measure to fill gaps in California's sagging budget. But the fee was extended two more times.

Again in 1991 a surcharge of \$1 per unit was added.

In the Spring of 1993 the fee rose again to \$10 a unit, and the charge cap was dropped. A student who paid \$100 a year in 1990, now pays \$300.

As the final battle over the budget draws closer, groups of students were commended for their efforts and encouraged to continue protesting by some legislators and their aids.

## WOMEN

Continued from Page 1

the mike, you'll be heard. If you come in the station, we will empower you and make you feel better about your capabilities."

Barbara Goldberg of the New Horizons Center at LAVC stated that she came, "To pay tribute to the single-parent students on campus. I can't think of better role models. Most of them live at the poverty level or below and they come back to campus because they are eager to make a better life for themselves and their children. And they face almost insurmountable odds. But they persist."

Karen Wilson, board member of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) spoke on the problems facing lesbians in the world today. "We are approaching the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the gay movement. Now, lesbians and gay men face discrimination in employment, custody rights...and in ways we never thought of before. As a lesbian, I didn't have the option of depending on a male partner economically. I knew that I would have to support myself. When women walk into the work place they already have one strike against them (for being a woman). I had to decide if I wanted to reveal myself (as a lesbian) and take the chance of losing a job."

"The invisibility of women in society was on reason GLAAD was formed," continued Wilson. "Lesbians don't make it into the

Marlene Garcia, assistant to Speaker of the Assembly Willie Brown, told a group of Pasadena City College students to continue lobbying and to let assembly members and legislators know that they are not going to back down.

"You're doing all the right things. Keep doing what you've been doing, especially when negotiations get tough," said Garcia.

Even though the rally did not make as much of an impact as the organizers would have liked, they said it has given them the initiative to work harder.

The organizers are planning another rally at Governor Pete Wilson's Los Angeles office on April 15.

The involvement of more and more students is becoming apparent.

"It was pretty exciting, going up there (to Sacramento). The tide is really turning, and more and more students are becoming involved. The rally was a good start, but there's a lot more to be done," said Joel Loften, ASU commissioner of the evening division.

As additional fee increases become a reality, students and organizers are gearing up for the battle. With more rallies planned and lobby delegations being formed, organizers are ready to fight.

"We did it their way now it's time to do it our way. We need to shake the tree," said Hernandez.

news...When we do, we're in a way that's distorted. According to Hollywood, the top jobs for lesbians are prison guards, sadistic nannies and murderers. Also, lesbians are often portrayed as objects of titillation for men. These are not good role models for young lesbians or young women."

A run down of prominent women in history, as taught by the school system, was read by Patricia Devin of the Women's Health Action Organization.

Jane George, LAVC student, brought up important points about the messages that girls receive in the media. From the perfect women ads in magazines to the cartoon "The Little Mermaid", George said that girls receive unhealthy messages.

George sang an original song about Becky Bell, a 17-year-old woman in Indiana who became pregnant. Because Indiana forbids minors having abortions without parental consent, Bell had an illegal abortion which cost her life.

"Should the love of 17 cost Becky her life?" asked George in her song.

Adwoa Nyamekye, co-founder and president of International Sisterhood, spoke about manifesting empowerment into women's lives today. "I see the women's movement as strong, capable and willing. The limitations that haunt us are those that we accept as being true. Our power lies in the accep-

tance of ourselves as power filled and powerful," said Nyamekye.

LASA dancers performed a dance entitled "Alcatraz" that originated with the black Peruvian people that were forcibly brought to America by the Spaniards. The two women, clad in white skirts and shirts and red head coverings, danced to a sensual beat with lit candles. People pulled from the crowd danced with them in an effort to extinguish the candles with their movements. More spectators gathered as the women danced across the square and the present crowd cheered and applauded.

Sandra Osborn, vice-president of the National Council of Negro Women, ended the rally with a plea for support of black women. "As a black woman, I feel we have made some accomplishments. But we have a lot more to accomplish. We have to continue to keep our families together. We have to stop gang violence. We need support from you. I'm asking you today to help us in our struggle. We need your support. We need your prayers," said Osborn.

As a traditional Indian song was sung, the rally wound down and the crowd dispersed. The message, however remained with the on lookers. Duran commented, "We may not be able to change men, but we can change the way we see ourselves. I've thought about getting involved in a women's group and once I have my education I can really do something."

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Chancellor's Hour:** Chancellor David Mertes will be broadcasting a show concerning key issues facing the California Community Colleges. The broadcast is on March 25. For information call (916)445-7412.

**Scholarship:** The Patrons Association and the Family Charity Fund is offering a scholarship of \$400. To qualify you must be currently enrolled at LAVC and must be employed at least 20 hours per week.

**Graduation Deadline:** Deadline for filing Spring petitions for graduation is Friday, April 9, 1993 at 4:00 p.m. and information is available in the Graduation Office-Admin. Room 127.

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## Into the woods...



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David Zamora, Jack Glantz and Seymour Fried performed with the LVC Wind Ensemble under the direction of Irvin Pope Monday at Monarch Hall. Next concert will be Monday, May 17.

## Women artists to show and tell

In honor of Woman's History Month, the Art Gallery Council will present an exhibition of recent work by former students of the Art Department. A weekly lecture series will accompany the exhibition:

Monday, April 5

Merrilyn Duzy  
Walking through History:  
Women Artists Past and Present

Monday, April 12

Eugenia Sumnik-Dekovich,  
Associate Professor of Art  
History  
"What is Female Imagery?"  
Revisited

Monday, April 19

Ingrid Lilligren, President  
Southern Calif. Women's  
Caucus for Art Heros: A  
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All lectures begin at 7 p.m. in Room 103 of the Art Building. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For information please call (818) 781-1200 ext. 400.

## Mixed reviews for 'Derbys'

### •Hats off

By STEVEN KOSOY  
Staff Writer

Stan Laurel would have liked it. This is the highest praise imaginable for "Derbys," the new musical comedy at Los Angeles Valley College. Ordinarily such a phrase would sound like an empty compliment from an enthusiastic critic, but in this case it does not come from a reviewer, but from Lois Laurel Hawes, Stan Laurel's daughter, who happened to be in the audience last Saturday night.

Hawes' opinion is significant since "Derbys" is essentially a tribute to the comedic genius of Laurel and Hardy.

It is the story of Andi Bowles, an assistant producer of a TV series called Derbys, in which Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, and Mae West are transported in time to modern days. Unfortunately for everyone involved with the series, it is doomed for failure due to the dirty business aspects of show business. However, acting as guardian angels, the real Laurel and Hardy come back to help Andi rescue the show.

"Derbys" certainly has the makings of a 1930's style comedy. However, the show's one failing is as a musical.

The main problem is the sound. The orchestra drowned out the singing to the point that it was difficult to hear the lyrics. Also, the songs seemed forced. They did not seem to come naturally from the situations, nor did they really serve to advance either plot or character development. They only seemed to be there for the sake of having songs and calling the play a musical.

This is a shame because without the musical numbers "Derbys" shines as a comedy.

There is a lot of genuine humor that comes out of the performances. There are also some very real performances.

Most noteworthy is Tracy French, a Valley College alumnus who plays Andi Bowles with a genuine intelligence. There is no doubt that Andi would be capable of achieving her position on the series, and of coming up with the idea for it.

Even though Andi ultimately needs help in saving the show, French manages to play her with a certain strength that keeps her from becoming a damsel in distress.

French also displays a remarkable comedic talent when she single-handedly impersonates both Laurel and Hardy.

The physical comedy is the highlight of the play. Joe Quinn and Leah Henteloff stop the show with their climatic Laurel and Hardy inspired pie fight.

Two other standouts are Huston Hudleston and Rudy Dale Wright as Laurel and Hardy, respectively. Hudleston and Wright impersonate them with such a reverence that it is here the tribute shines through.

Their costumes, voices, and mannerisms are all true to the memory of Laurel and Hardy. Certainly, here imitation is the most sincere form of flattery.

Other than the aforementioned music problem, the only other criticism would be the abrupt ending. "Derbys" does not build to a natural climax. It just ends. Also, several subplots reach their resolution after the main plot. This only helps in making the ending even less climatic than it already is.

In spite of this, "Derbys" will entertain you. It plays March 25, 26, and 27 at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre. If you like to laugh, and especially if you like Laurel and Hardy, go see it.

Remember, Stan Laurel would have liked it.

### •Hats on

By MILES GRANDFIELD  
Staff Writer

It is a wonderful thing to walk out of the premiere of a new musical comedy feeling exhilarated by brilliant performances, poignant songs and an inspired script. Unfortunately, anyone pinning their hopes for exhilaration on the current LVC theater production of "Derbys" is likely to walk away feeling sort of blah.

"Derbys" is basically an old-fashioned vaudeville review consisting of alternating musical numbers and slapstick routines interrelated by a skeletal plot that is at once underdeveloped and too complex.

The basic idea is this: the ghosts of Laurel and Hardy return to one of their old sound stages to check out the production of a TV sitcom about the return of the ghosts of Laurel and Hardy to one of their old sound stages. You may have to read that again.

Actually, the concept seems to have possibilities when you think about it. You can almost hear the wheels turning in the minds of the play's creators Kerry Zirin and Jeff Oxman, who collaborated on the music and lyrics, and Peter Parkin who wrote the script and directed.

After all, everyone loves Laurel and Hardy, and everyone loves stories about ghosts. If you throw in a romantic subplot, a string of one-liners and 11 strong song-and-dance numbers, you might have a show that's going places.

In its present form, however, "Derbys" is not likely to make it past the corner of Fulton and Oxford streets. The writers have ignored the most important rule of musical script development—keep it simple. Great musicals seem to grow effortlessly from the simple germ of an idea. The songs are like flowers that bloom periodically from a natural inner expansive force. But "Derbys" doesn't seem to have an identifiable central idea. The musical numbers have been grafted on to a story line that is so convoluted, it becomes difficult to identify exactly what this show is supposed to be about.

It's as if the writing process were done in reverse. The music seems not to be an outgrowth of plot development. Instead, the script seems to have been written as an attempt to unite a grab-bag of songs that were composed beforehand.

Many of the songs are mediocre at best. They are full of forced lyrics that have been squeezed into tight places. One song has an in-

appropriate change of meter that gives it the sound of a skipped record. The singing is at times adequate, and at times awful.

The comedy in "Derbys" is about as good as its music. The funniest moments are a couple of sight gags conceived more than 50 years ago; and the unscripted offstage yapping of a bug-eyed lap dog as it waits for its entrance. Since most of the script is dedicated to establishing jumbled plot lines, there is precious little time for comedic discourse.

Poor Ollie and Stan are shoved aside to make way for a production assistant named Andi who has love problems. But before we can really get a handle on Andi, there is the matter of Milt, the unfaithful producer who wants to end his wife's constant demands that he cast their untalented children in one of his television productions. Then there is Estelle, the mother-hen wardrobe lady. There is Len the director, Bob the actor, Cindy, Will, Gerald...the list goes on. We are expected to care about them, but the characters are never really developed, so we don't.

The quality of the acting was, for the most part, good. Tracy French as Andi, and Duchess Dale as Estelle, almost succeeded in dispelling the myth that "there are no bad roles" with their obvious depth of acting experience. Richard Goteri as the producer, Deborah Lande as the stage mother and Leah Henteloff as their air-headed daughter can also be commended for their performances. Huston Hudleston and Rudy Wright had the unenviable task of impersonating beloved comedic icons Laurel and Hardy and so can be excused for any shortcomings. Lisa Kellog, Cammy Singer, Richard Cisneros and Dafna Kaiserman showed promise as actors but their roles did not permit much range.

The choreography by Bob Simon, and the classy (albeit wobbly) set by Duane Gardella give the show a professional visual aspect. The lighting by Andy Grim is well conceived, but its effect is diminished by exposing the overhead light racks in an apparent attempt to make the set look like a TV sound stage. They should have lowered the curtain to its normal position and hung a few dummy lights as props.

If you know somebody in the Theater Arts Department, try to cop a free entry. After all, theater critics have been known to be wrong on occasion. But if you can't get in for free, save your \$5 admission until May 1st when the Valley Collegiate Players will screen the real Laurel and Hardy for two bucks.

"Derbys" will play tonight, tomorrow and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7 general, and \$5 for students and seniors.

## \$25,000 offered for original screenplays

Applications are now available for the 1993 Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting, which is a program open to writers of all ages who have not previously sold a screenplay.

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Established in 1985 by a grant from Mrs. Gee Nicholl, last year's

competition attracted 3,514 entries from writers in the United States and 13 foreign countries. Two of the winners from last year were students when they wrote their screenplays.

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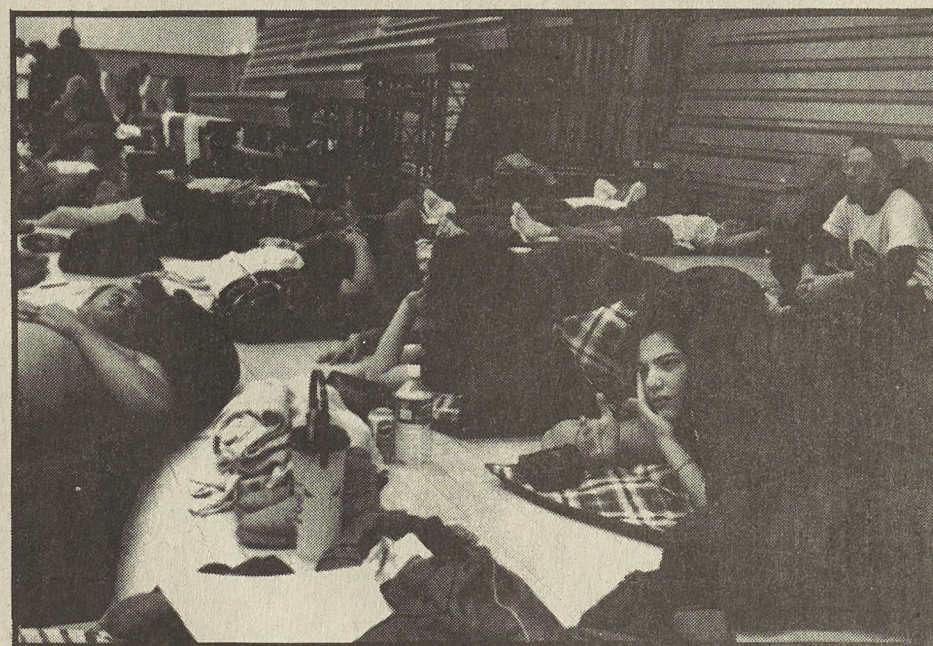
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Tony Lowden, Region Seven President of California Student's Association of Community Colleges, urged students to participate in the democratic process. "We will threaten them with democracy."

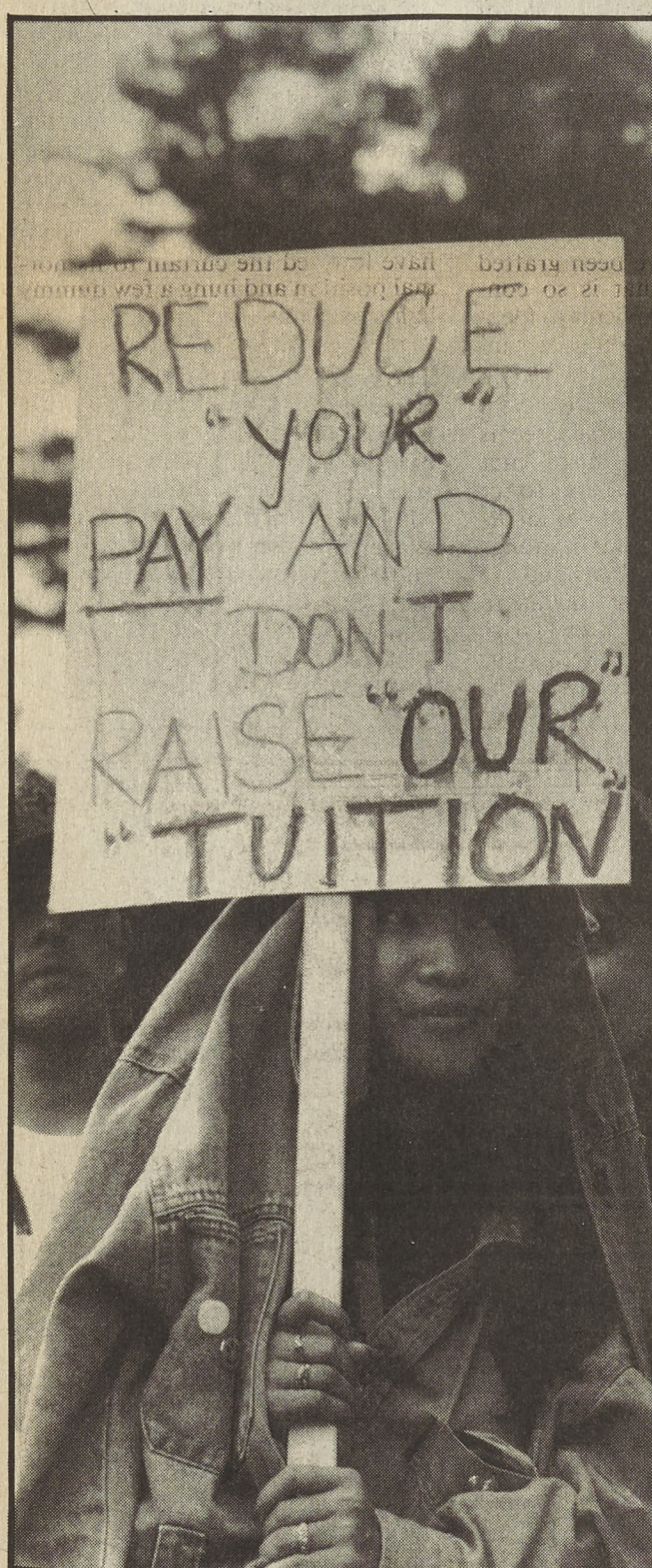
## Many students, one voice



LAVC student Rania Chandy peered out of her sleeping bag after a night on the hardwood floor of the Cordova High gym. She would soon be on the Capitol steps.



Marlene Garcia (right), assistant to House Speaker Willie Brown, spoke with Pasadena City College students (from left) John Robinson, Dylan Littlefield and Denisha Louth about current legislative activity regarding college funding and urged them to continue their fight.



Rain dampened the posters but not the spirits of students who staged the three hour rally outside the state Capitol.

Photos and text  
by  
Adam Crocker

The obstacles were large and numerous. Until the morning of the trip, the organizers of the rally had no idea where the group would be staying the night in Sacramento. At the last minute, a high school in Folsom agreed to let the group sleep in the school's gymnasium.

At 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 250 students from community colleges around Southern California boarded eight charter buses at Los Angeles Valley College and headed for the state Capitol to make their voices heard.

Eight hours later, the students disembarked from the buses into a dark, rainy Northern California night. Rally organizers attempted to contain the ensuing chaos as students staked out sleeping spots on the gym's hardwood floor.

Los Angeles City College Associated Student's Organization President Tony Lowden announced the rules for the slumber party and a shower schedule for the morning.

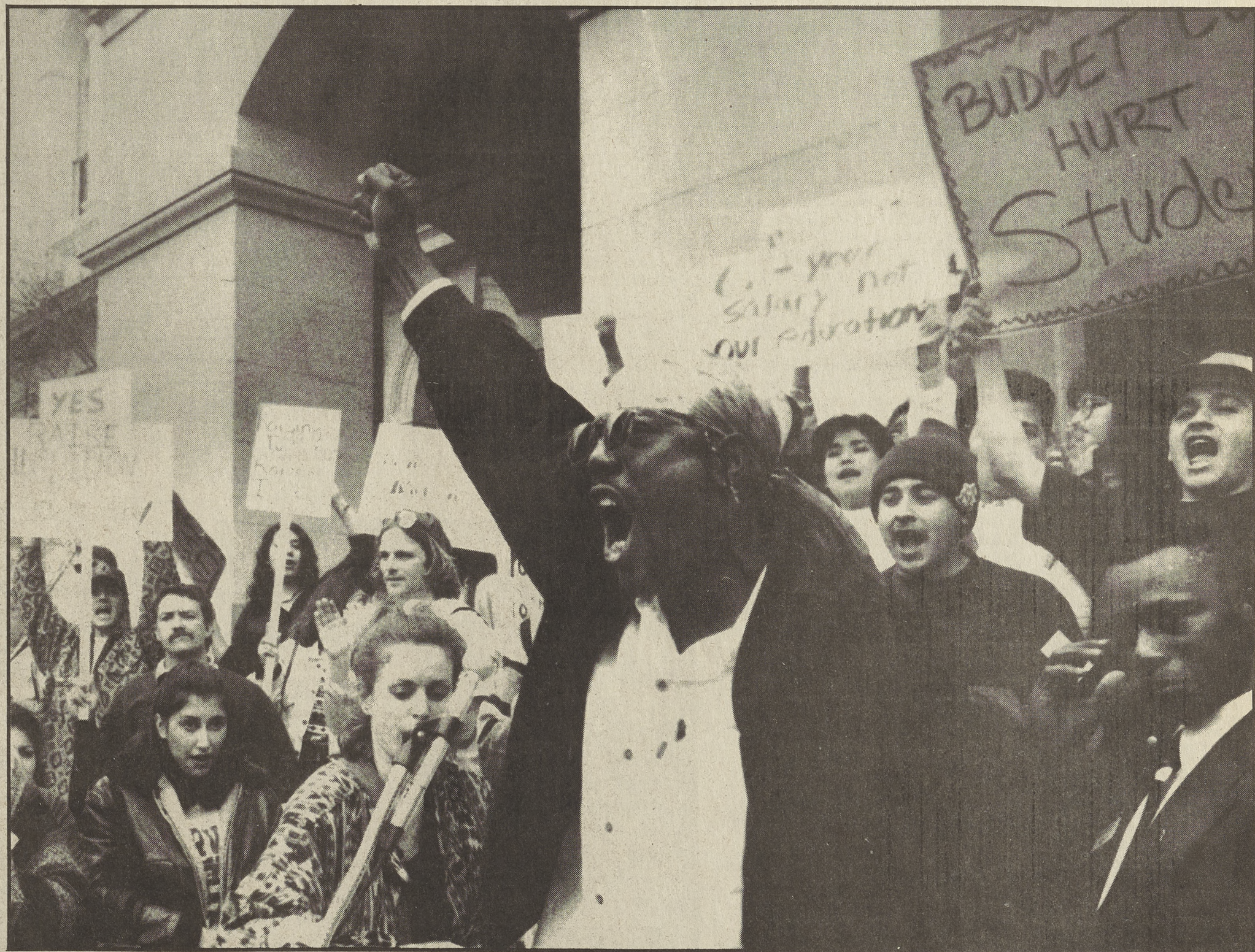
Students began stirring before 6 a.m. By 7:30 the buses were loaded and rolling towards a breakfast stop before descending on the Capitol. The local Denny's

was ill-prepared to handle the sudden influx of customers but members of the student delegation assisted in pouring coffee and clearing tables. Within an hour and a half, the students were back on the buses, headed for the Capitol.

The rally itself was peaceful. The speeches and chants were accompanied by visits to the offices of state assemblymen and senators by teams of student representatives who intended to find out where the politicians stood on the issues related to community college funding. For the most part, the politicians themselves were not to be found.

Outside, standing in the intermittent rain, the group of students seemed painfully small next to the bulk of the Capitol building. Their cohesiveness, however, carried from the beginning of the rally until its end some three hours later.

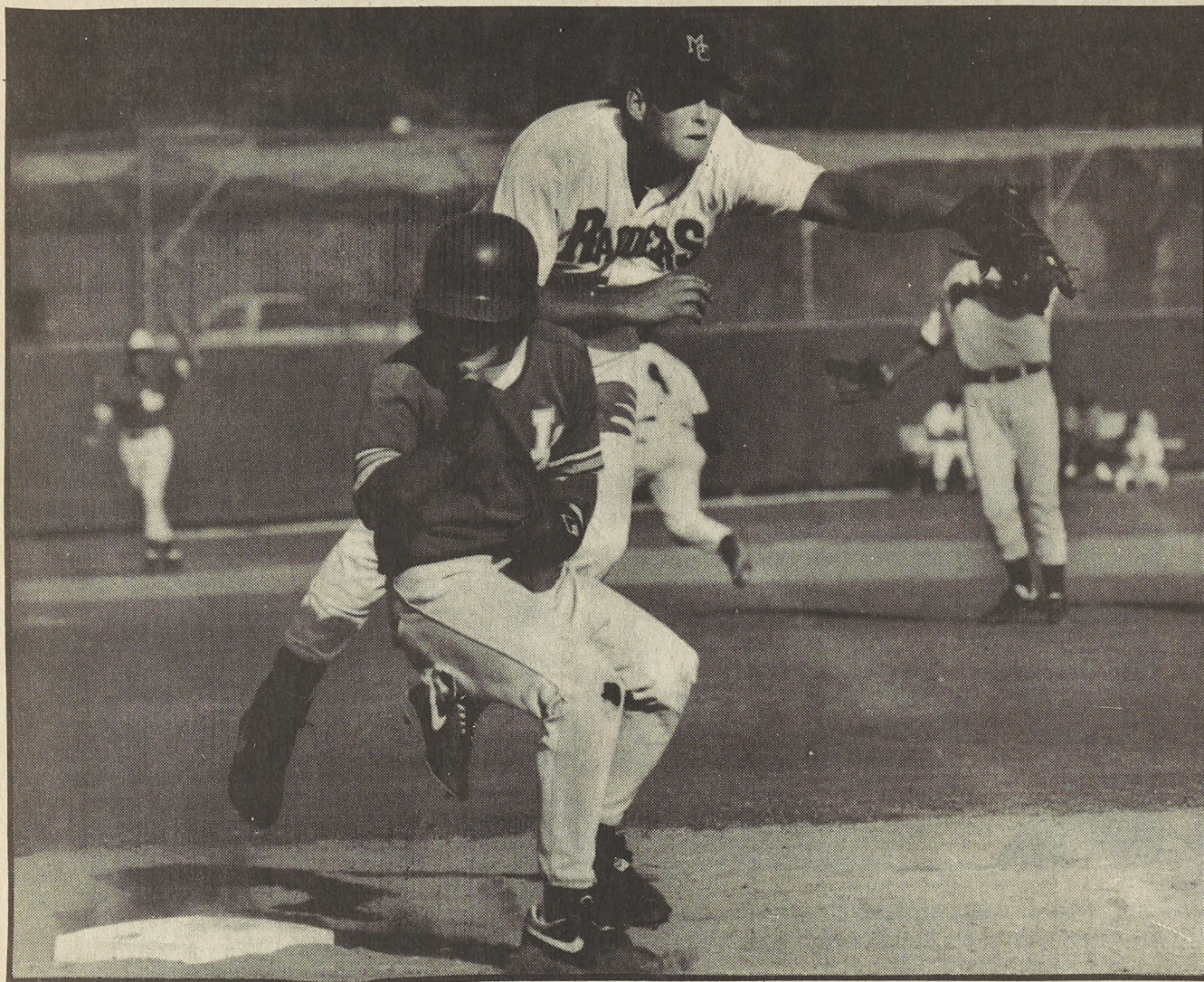
Organizers were pleased with the rally and are now planning a larger demonstration in May to be attended by students from community colleges all over the state.



Los Angeles City College Vice President and Vietnam veteran Jerry Smith spoke about how affordable education kept him from a life of homelessness, drugs and

crime. Increases in spending for new prisons while funding for education is being slashed was a primary topic for speakers at the rally





Steve Knezevich is safe at first as a bad throw pull Raider Aaro Fischer off the bag in Valley's 11-0 rout

at Moorpark Saturday. At this point, Valley's standing in the conference is 10-5.

## Monarchs caught in controversy

By ANDREW SAMUELSON  
Staff Writer

Three Monarch hitters came up to bat in the bottom of the ninth inning with the score tied 5-5 on Tuesday against Western States Conference foe Santa Barbara.

There may be nothing unusual with that, except that they all came to the plate in the same at bat. Now the game is under protest by Santa Barbara because the last batter was walked allowing his pinch runner, Brian Gordon to score the game winning run.

Ted Gonzalez came up to pinch hit for Steve Knezevich in the top of the ninth. After the first pitch, the Santa Barbara coach went to the home plate umpire and said Gonzalez had not been reported into the game and was ineligible.

Johnson sent Knezevich back in and after he took a pitch, Gonzalez came up again. But since he had already been taken out of the game, he could not return.

Finally, with two pitches already thrown, Willie Rivera came to the plate and was walked. He was replaced by pinch runner, Brian Gordon. The episode began a rally that was capped off by Victor Seper's one out, bases loaded single into left-center field that gave Valley their fourth consecutive win.

If Santa Barbara's case is successfully pleaded, the teams will resume the game with the score tied 5-5 in the bottom of the ninth when they next play each other.

If the Monarch victory stands, Valley will move into a second place tie with Cuesta in the Western States Conference with a 10-5 record. Both teams trail College of the Canyons who has a 13-1 record.

After losing 13-12 against Glendale, Valley regrouped last week to win last Thursday's game against Oxnard and two games on Saturday against Moorpark (one was a make-up game that resumed from the tenth inning).

Coach Johnson credited the team pitching which has been bolstered

with Willie Rivera's return to the starting rotation.

"Everyone is settling down and playing together," Valley third baseman Seper said. "We have an awesome (batting) lineup and it's great to get a win when Willie (Rivera) doesn't have to pitch."

Rivera leads the team with four conference wins and has an earned run average of 2.11. He pitched the final four innings of the Moorpark make-up game and threw the first six innings of the second game on Saturday. On Tuesday, his only field appearance was his involvement in the controversial at bat which resulted in a walk.

Offensively, the team has been lead by David Stevenson, Jason Stanley and Seper. Stevenson ran his hitting streak to 15 games in the win against Santa Barbara with his second home run of the week. Seper collected two hits in each of last week's games to raise his average above .300. Stanley is batting .387, second on the team behind Stevenson who is batting .426.

Ferrero said, "I have contacted a few organizations on campus for financial assistance, transportation costs and maybe help with the purchasing of the uniforms."

During the past ten years we have had cheerleading teams for football and basketball games, and the cheerleaders have voluntarily paid most of the costs and did not receive any units or credits. They put in a lot of hours and hardwork perfecting their routines and do a great deal of traveling."

The team is planning to enter competitions, attend rallies and cheer at all the LAVC football and basketball games. "We want everyone on campus to become more involved in promoting and backing our teams," said Gittleman.

## Michelson named Coach of the Year

By NANCY VIGRAN  
Editor-in-Chief

After six years of service to Los Angeles Valley College women's basketball, coach Doug Michelson is moving on.

He won't be moving far though. Beginning next season, Michelson will be switching over to the men's gym to replace departing basketball coach Jim Stephens.

Michelson was recently named Coach of the Year for the fourth time in his six years in the Western States Women's Regional Conference. He has been coaching for 27 years, 21 of which have been for men's teams.

Michelson played basketball in high school and at LAVC. After earning his bachelor's degree in physical education and his master's in counseling and guidance he began coaching at the high school level.

He was the men's coach at Los Angeles Pierce College for two years but opted to leave and take a coaching position at Hart High in Newhall, in order to be able to attend his sons' high school games.

In 1988 Michelson took the position as the Lady Monarch's head coach. In the six years since then, the Lady Monarchs have won their division title each year and have developed a record of 184 wins and 28 losses.

"Michelson took over a presentable team and took it a couple levels higher," Chuck Ferrero, athletic director for LAVC says. "He is first class and highly organized in a very professional manner," Ferrero says.

While coaching at LAVC, Michelson has been working as athletic director at Hart High. This dual schedule has not hindered his abilities or direction. "I've had support at both ends and that helps a lot," Michelson says. He says he has had a lot of support from his family as well.

Monarch star center Amy Horst was recruited by Michelson. "He convinced me that Valley was the right place to



BOB LACATTIVA / Valley Star

Coach Doug Michelson makes one of his final calls for the Lady Monarchs. Next year, he will take over the mens' program.

go," she says, "and I was determined not to [go to Valley]." Horst had planned on entering directly into a four-year university, but now says she is really glad that she has attended LAVC for the past two years. She says Michelson "has made the transition easier, by making me feel welcome."

He gave me another chance to try out. He had confidence in me and I thank him for that," says freshman

forward Angie Quezada, who took a year off after high school. "He has always been there for the team and for every individual," she says.

Michelson says that he looks forward to coaching the men's team and has already been actively recruiting for next season.

John Taylor, who has been assistant coach for the women's team, will become their head coach next season.

## Cheerleaders begin new season with high hopes

By LUCY THOMAS  
Staff Writer

Cheerleading at Los Angeles Valley College has not been taught as a class since 1983, due to lack of funds. This fall semester, a short term, one unit class was started with the help of LAVC Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero.

Ferrero is teacher of record of the new cheerleading class which meets two hours a week under his direction. On March 9, eleven women were selected as members of the cheerleading team at the tryouts which were judged by former cheerleaders.

Funding is not provided for the team's expenses by LAVC due to the cuts in the school's budget.

The members of the team must purchase their own uniforms and any other necessary equipment.

The new members of the team had their first meeting on Wednesday March 16 at the home of the team captain, Nancy Gittleman, a member of last year's squad.

The women discussed new procedures and plans for the coming fall semester and ways and means of collecting funds to help finance the new season.

Many money making ideas were discussed: a dance, garage sales, bake sales, and raffles were mentioned. Gittleman has plans to contact several representatives of sporting goods manufacturers in hopes of receiving some donated equipment.

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